MARVEL

THE ULTIMATES

CAMP | PÉREZ | BLEE

FEB. 2026 | RATED T+

THE
ULTIMATES

ULTIMATES HANDBOOK

A Revised Revolutionary Manual

This is an evolving document and collective work,
with contributions from millions.

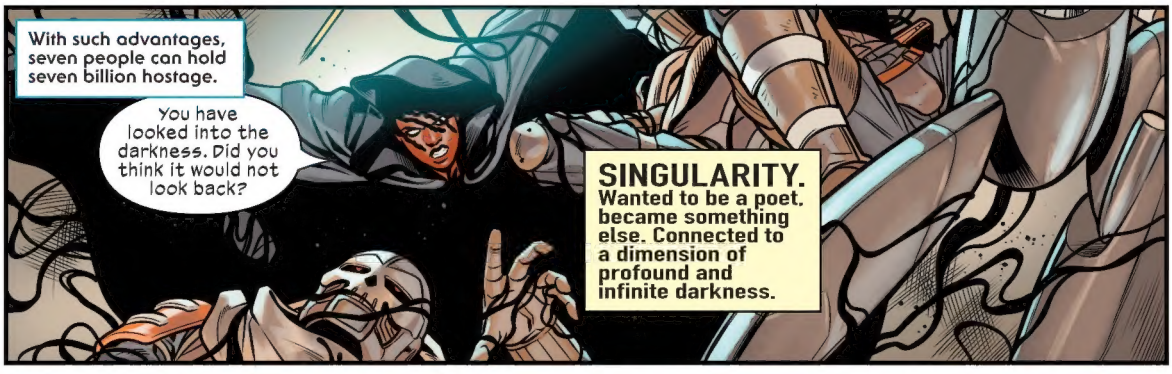
The time for talk and peaceful protest is past.
Power concedes nothing without a demand.

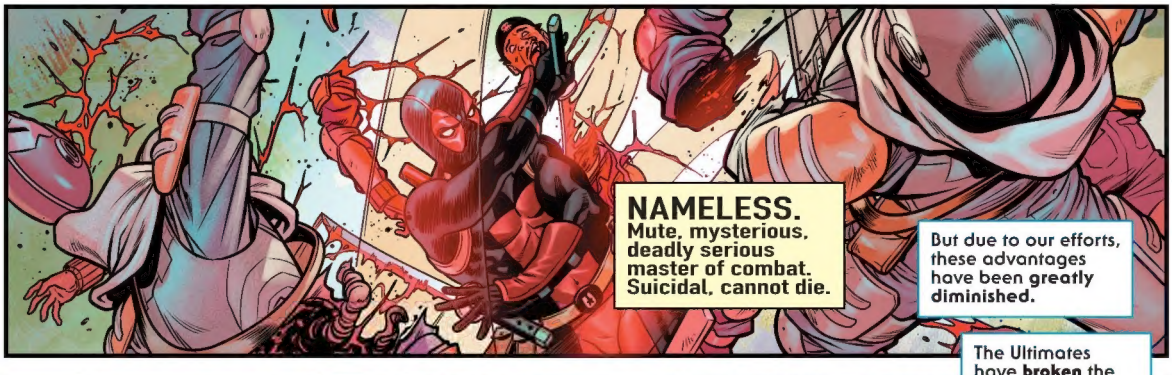
So make the demand.

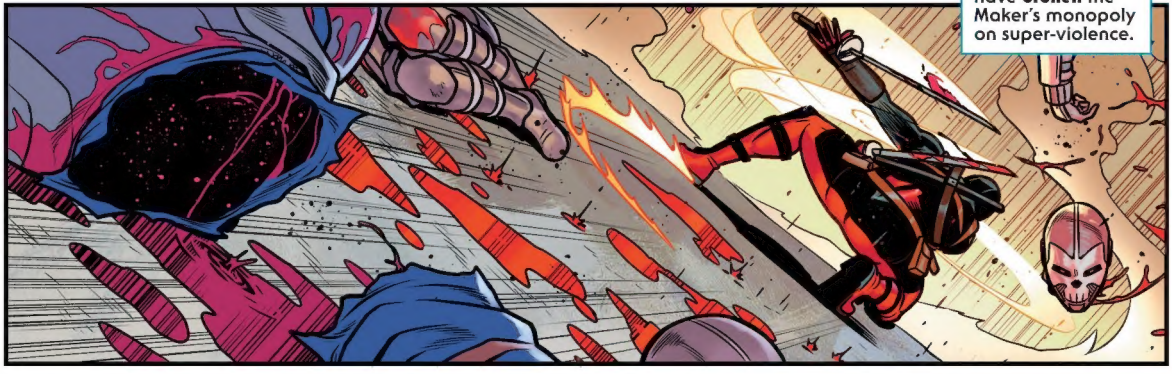
THE BATTLE FOR ATLANTA.
2 hrs 24 minutes in. Currently the Southern Front of the Ultimate Uprising.
There is fire spreading from person to person, city to city, shore to shore. It is a fire that does not destroy but transforms.
Council forces are faltering! Don't stop! DON'T STOP!!!
All power to the people!
It is a fire called freedom.

Since the Maker's arrival, the world has changed. The tactics and strategy of the revolutionary must change with it.
Their lines have collapsed!
LUKE CAGE.
Bulletproof abolitionist. Burgeoning folk hero.

Small arms and homemade weapons are of no use against the Council's doomsday computers and super-fascists.
SCREEEEE
WINGSPAN.
Spent most of her life confined to a 4x4 box. Will never be confined again.


With such advantages, seven people can hold seven billion hostage.
You have looked into the darkness. Did you think it would not look back?
SINGULARITY.
Wanted to be a poet. became something else. Connected to a dimension of profound and infinite darkness.


NAMELESS.
Mute, mysterious, deadly serious master of combat. Suicidal, cannot die.
But due to our efforts, these advantages have been **greatly diminished.**


The Ultimates have **broken** the Maker's monopoly on super-violence.

Spare no one, Cerberus! They are soaked in sin!
PENANCE. Sold his soul to the devil for the cause. Got Hell's worst boy in the bargain.
This new kind of warfare is without historical precedent. On the battlefield, you will come face-to-face with gods, demons and horrors beyond your worst nightmares.
We'll fill up Hell this day, or die trying!!!
But now we have gods and demons on our side too.
I'm forty feet up! How--?!
It's called jumping, idiot.
Gods, demons and heroes.
Taskmasters. Downloadable skill sets, but no brains.
The rest are retreating! We just took Atlanta in three hours, people!!!
Cerberus and I will pursue. Rent-a-racists, mutant assassins, sunscreen-slathered conscripts from Da Costa's vassal vampire Nation...
...none will escape their penance.

But your victory will not be measured only in enemy casualties or liberated territory. The heroes of this revolution will be those who refuse to forget their humanity, even in the face of unspeakable horror.

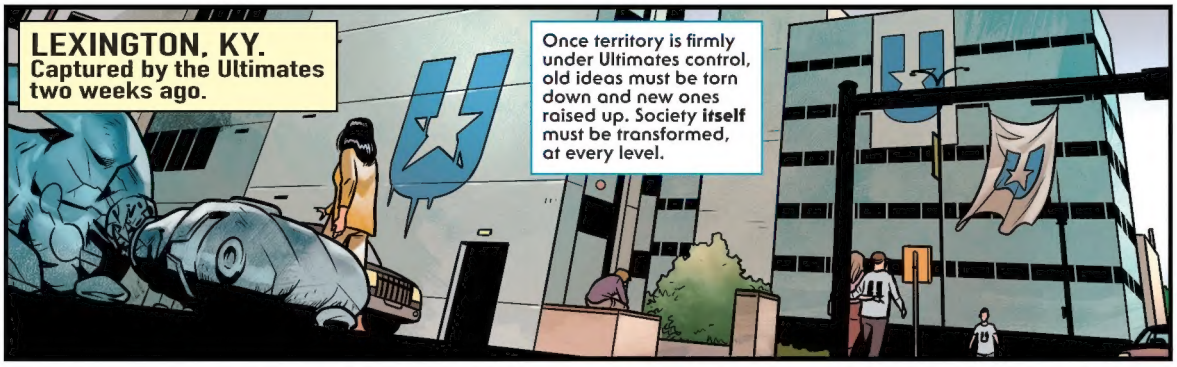
It's **after** the battles that the **real** work of the Ultimates begins: Treat the wounded; tend to the dead on both sides; secure surrendered soldiers; empty the prisons; and establish civilian order and public safety.
VISITOR

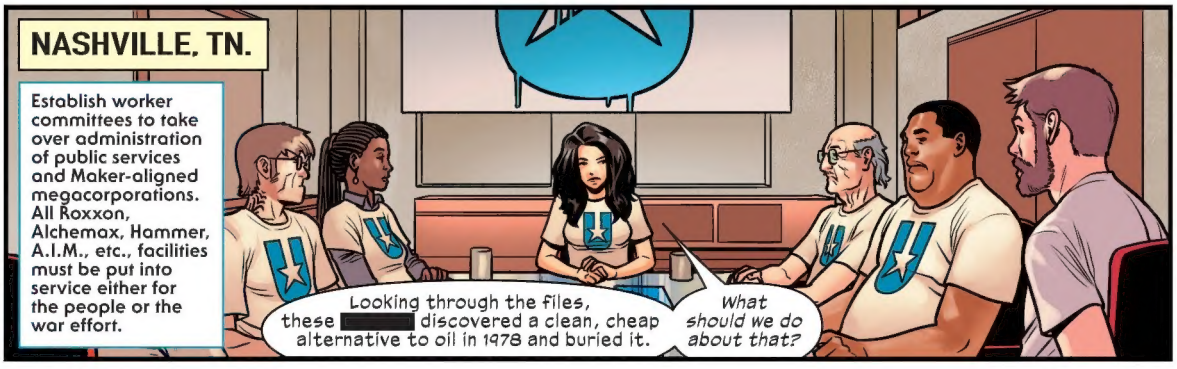
Make yourself into a living example of the Ultimates project. Let every action be an expression of your love for humanity and human freedom.
Give these bodies a proper burial. Get I.D.s, if you can, to notify next of kin.

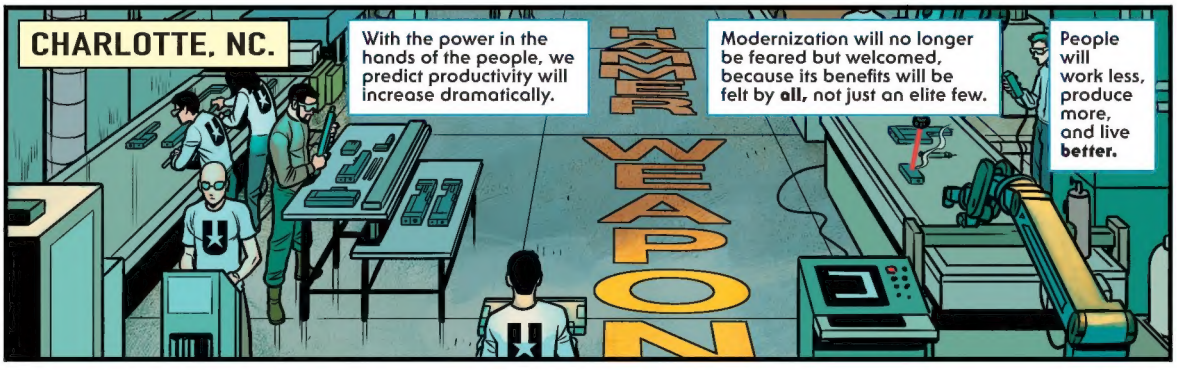
Rrrragghh!!!
I wouldn't.

The cruelty of our enemy is a noose around their own necks.
ZZZZZSHTTT

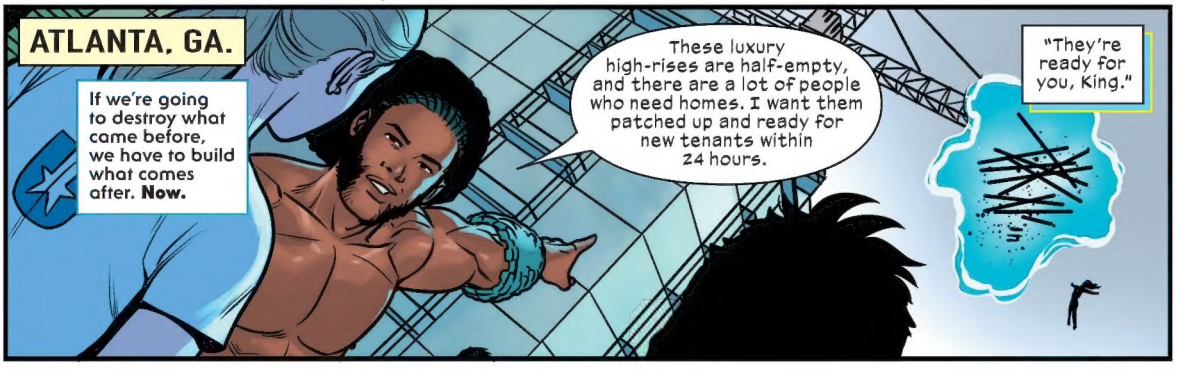
Should have listened. They never listen.
Let them **hang** themselves with it.

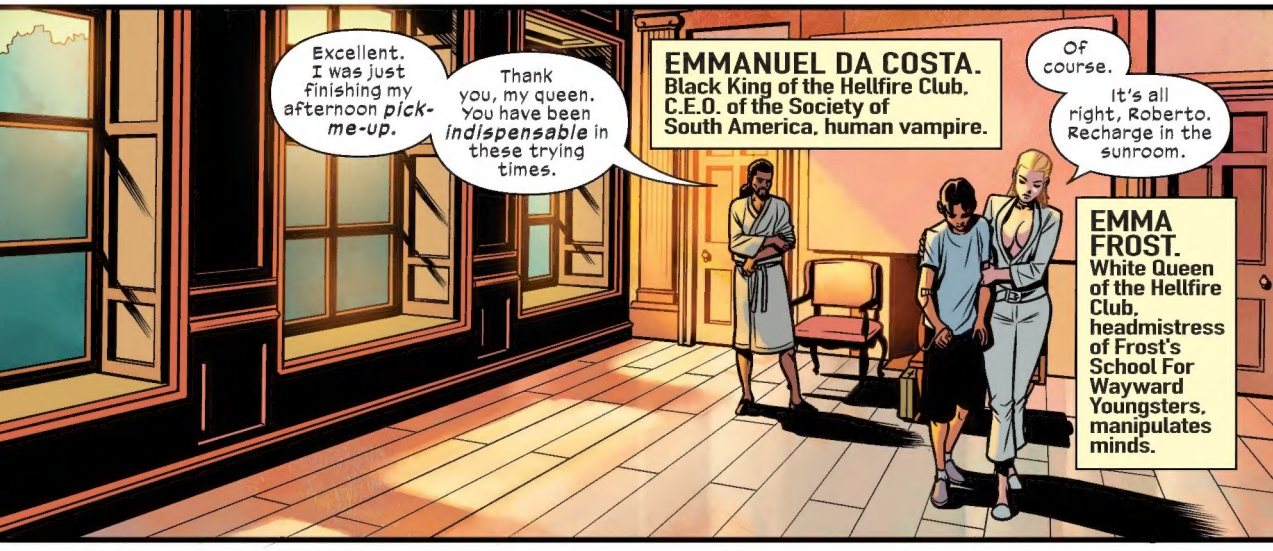

LEXINGTON, KY.
Captured by the Ultimates two weeks ago.
Once territory is firmly under Ultimates control, old ideas must be torn down and new ones raised up. Society **itself** must be transformed, at every level.


NASHVILLE, TN.
Establish worker committees to take over administration of public services and Maker-aligned megacorporations. All Roxxon, Alchemax, Hammer, A.I.M., etc., facilities must be put into service either for the people or the war effort.
Looking through the files, these [redacted] discovered a clean, cheap alternative to oil in 1978 and buried it.
What should we do about that?

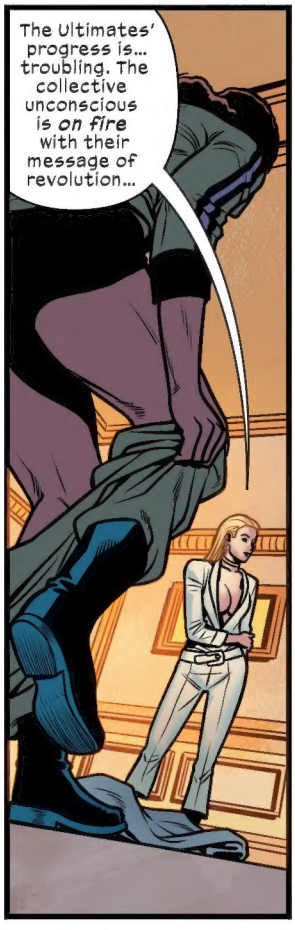

CHARLOTTE, NC.
With the power in the hands of the people, we predict productivity will increase dramatically.
Modernization will no longer be feared but welcomed, because its benefits will be felt by **all,** not just an elite few.
People will work less, produce more, and live **better.**
THE WEAPON

KANSAS CITY, MO.
War crimes must be documented and prosecuted, and revolutionary councils rooted in truth and reconciliation must be established to resolve disputes and repair harm where possible.
Poor thing... trained since puberty to kill... the things they *did* to you...
She's telling the truth.
Defectors will be accepted after they have submitted to a voluntary telepathic scan, to confirm that their motives are genuine.


ATLANTA, GA.
If we're going to destroy what came before, we have to build what comes after. **Now.**
These luxury high-rises are half-empty, and there are a lot of people who need homes. I want them patched up and ready for new tenants within 24 hours.
"They're ready for you, King."

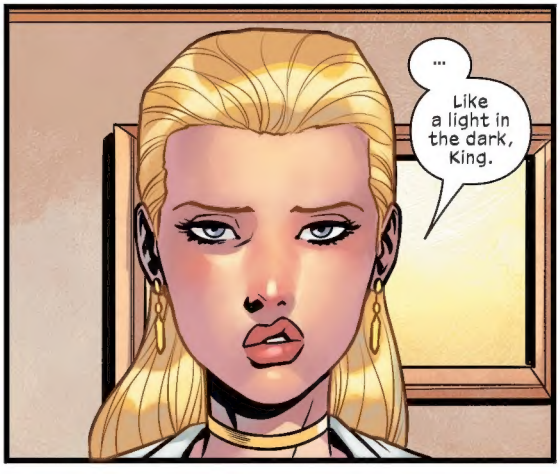

Excellent. I was just finishing my afternoon *pick-me-up.*
Thank you, my queen. You have been *indispensable* in these trying times.
EMMANUEL DA COSTA. **Black King of the Hellfire Club, C.E.O. of the Society of South America, human vampire.**
Of course.
It's all right, Roberto. Recharge in the sunroom.
EMMA FROST. **White Queen of the Hellfire Club, headmistress of Frost's School For Wayward Youngsters, manipulates minds.**

This war, Emma, this war! How it *tries* me!
H.A.N.D. and the Midwest lost to iron-giant collectivists, escaped convicts with stolen super-powers threatening our North American holdings! It's *outrageous!*
The favelas have declared independence back home! Can you imagine?! On my own doorstep!


The Ultimates' progress is... troubling. The collective unconscious is *on fire* with their message of revolution...

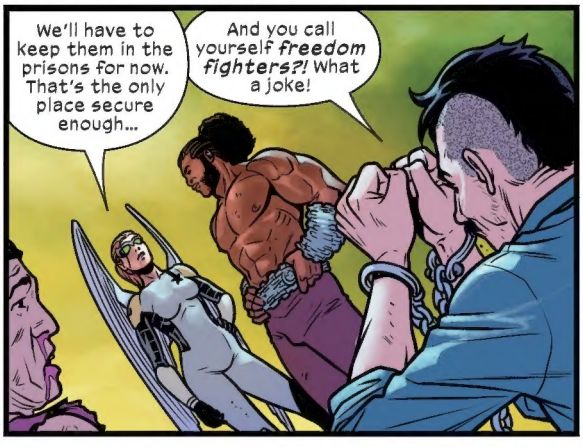
...while *we* have a morale and message problem, I am aware. But revolution is a product, like any other. And there is no product I can't sell. It's all in the *packaging.*

How do I *look?*


...
Like a light in the dark, King.

The *super-team* idea has legs, clearly. The public loves their heroes. Almost as much as they love tearing them down. But I see room for *improvement.*
A few billion dollars and an army of consultants later, we have found ways to broaden the appeal of the supergroup concept dramatically.
Our heroes will be completely apolitical, for widest possible appeal across all demographic groups. They will fight for "truth" and "justice"--concepts so vague and changeable as to be meaningless.
They will stand for *nothing* and *everything.*
ROXXON ALCHEMAX HAMMER MIDAS BEYOND
People don't want lectures and ideologies forced down their throat. They want straight-forward, super-powered violence and *color-coordinated* costumes.
The Ultimates may have done it first, but *the Defenders* will do it *best.*
Now...
...smile for the cameras.
Counter-revolutionary forces will inevitably adapt. They may even co-opt our methods, try to twist our message.

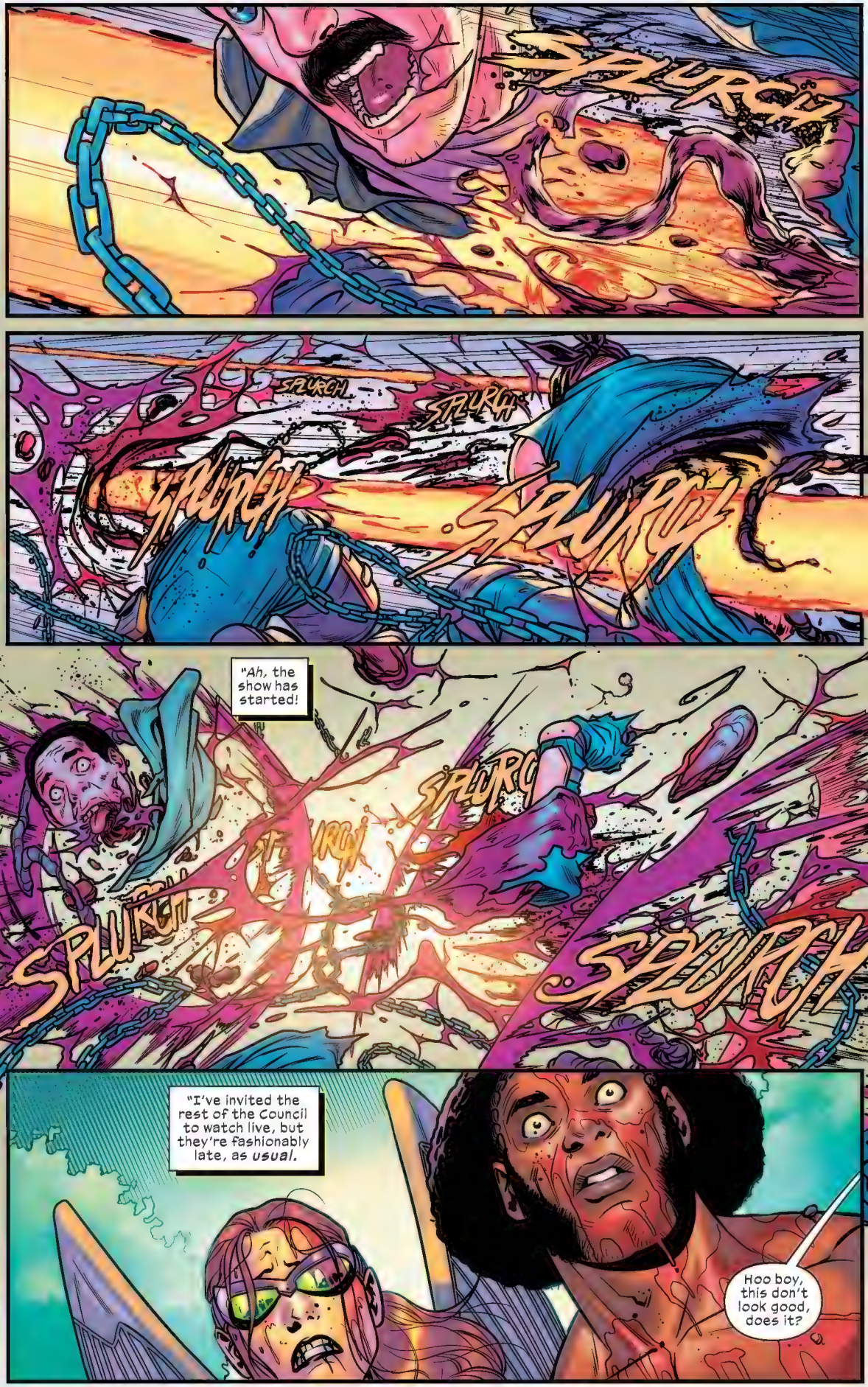
You will not always be welcomed as heroes or liberators. The Council has spent decades and trillions putting the public's minds in chains. This cannot be undone overnight.
3,981 new prisoners...made up mostly of Red Skulls, Makerites, mercenaries, Council loyalists and a few volunteers...just *regular people*...
You traitors! Terrorists! Criminals! The Maker already fixed the world! You're just ***breaking*** it!


We'll have to keep them in the prisons for now. That's the only place secure enough...
And you call yourself ***freedom fighters?!*** What a joke!

You are a danger to others. To your fellow ***man.*** When you cease to be a danger, a path to freedom will be presented.
Until then, you will be fed and sheltered and treated with respect. You have my word on that.

At times, violence will be necessary.
Once the local committees are established, you will be given due process for any crimes--
I'm sure you'll be ***real*** impartial.
--for any *crimes* you may be accused of. It's more than we were ever--

But through education, dialogue and debate, nonviolent solutions should be found wherever possible.
Due process? You're lying to yourself! I mean, you call yourself Avengers! That's what it's *really* about. You're hungry for ***blo--***


SPLURCH
SPLURCH
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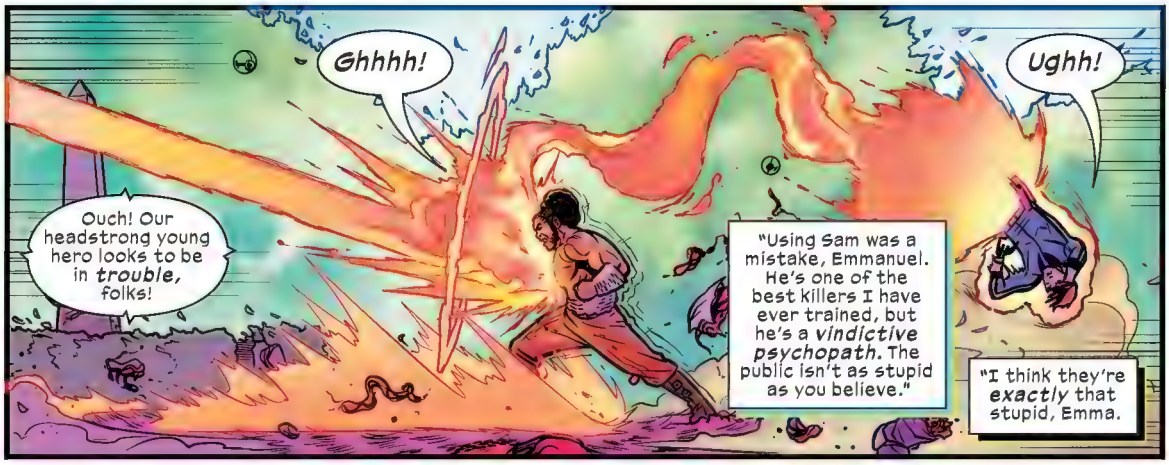
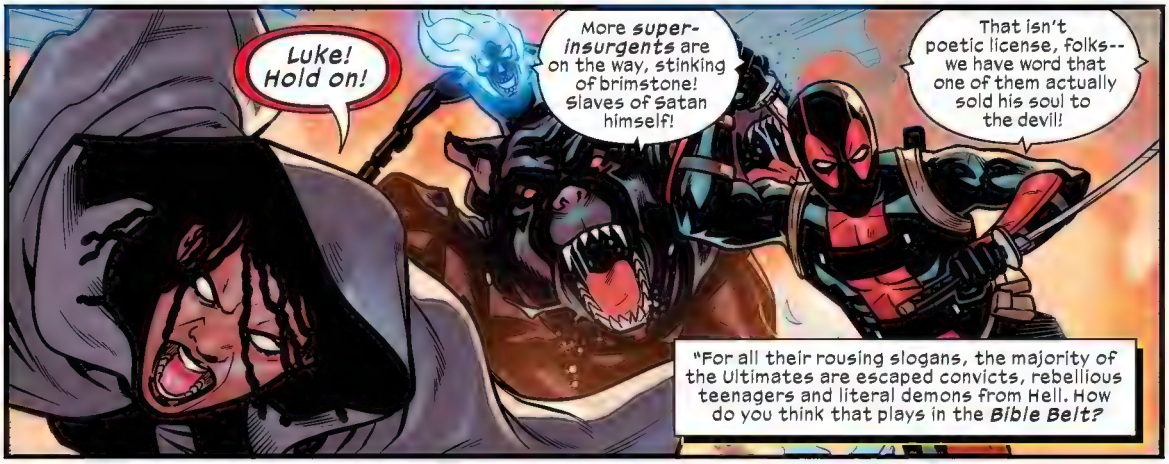
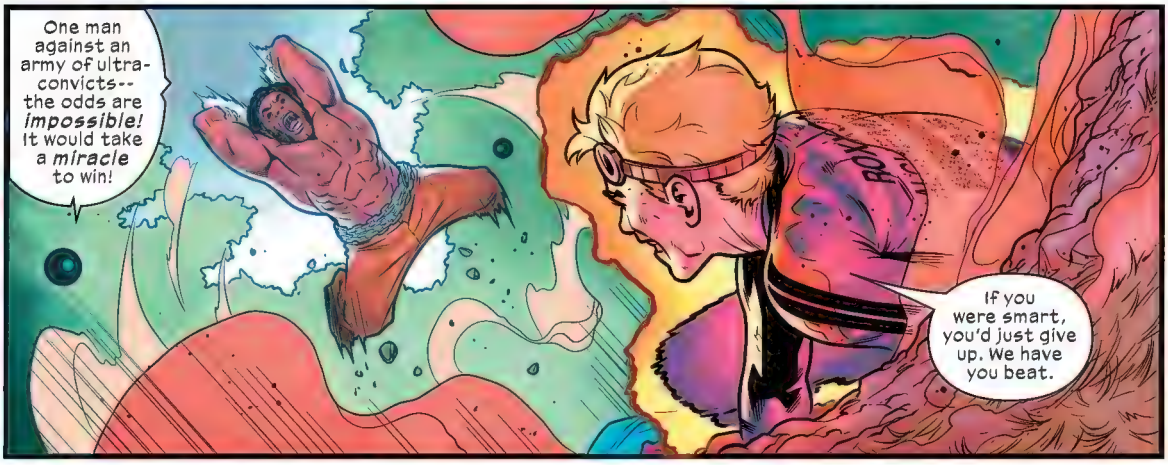
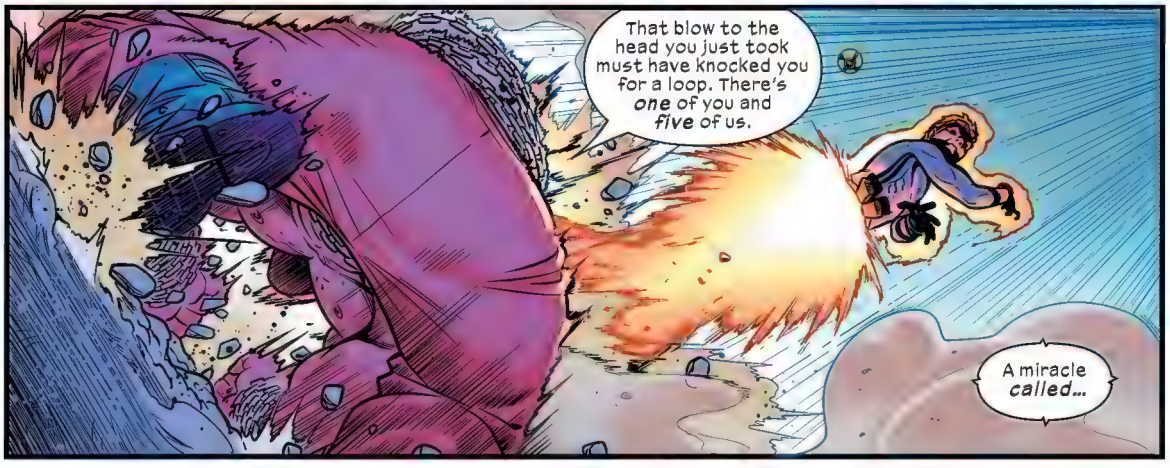
SPLURCH
SPLURCH
"Ah, the show has started!
"I've invited the rest of the Council to watch live, but they're fashionably late, as *usual*.
Hoo boy, this don't look good, does it?

"Their loss."
I mean, what are people gonna think when they see ya standin' in front of a bunch 'a brutally executed prisoners? People could draw conclusions...
Ballistic: Sam Guthrie. 100% human missile. Handsome hothead of the Defenders.
Avengers Unit 01 Assemble! Vision, a super-powered combatant has entered the theater! I need intelligence!
Keep hollerin', boy. We're jamming your signal.
Here come the cameras. How 'bout we give 'em a show?
Tune in, True Believers! We are livecasting from Atlanta, where members of the Ultimates terrorist network have just massacred dozens of unarmed innocents! 31.8m viewers.
Murderers!
The sight was too much for fearless, headstrong Ballistic--who volunteered to leave his family farm to fight for his way of life.
Can you believe the bravery, folks?
Ballistic is the unstoppable force! He faces an immovable object!
I'll be pickin' pieces 'a you out of my hair tonight, boy.
Who wins?!
Let's see.


Ghhhh!
Ughh!
Ouch! Our headstrong young hero looks to be in *trouble,* folks!
"Using Sam was a mistake, Emmanuel. He's one of the best killers I have ever trained, but he's a *vindictive psychopath.* The public isn't as stupid as you believe."
"I think they're *exactly* that stupid, Emma.


Luke! Hold on!
More *super-insurgents* are on the way, stinking of brimstone! Slaves of Satan himself!
That isn't poetic license, folks-- we have word that one of them actually sold his soul to the devil!
"For all their rousing slogans, the majority of the Ultimates are escaped convicts, rebellious teenagers and literal demons from Hell. How do you think that plays in the *Bible Belt?*


One man against an army of ultra-convicts-- the odds are *impossible!* It would take a *miracle* to win!
If you were smart, you'd just give up. We have you beat.

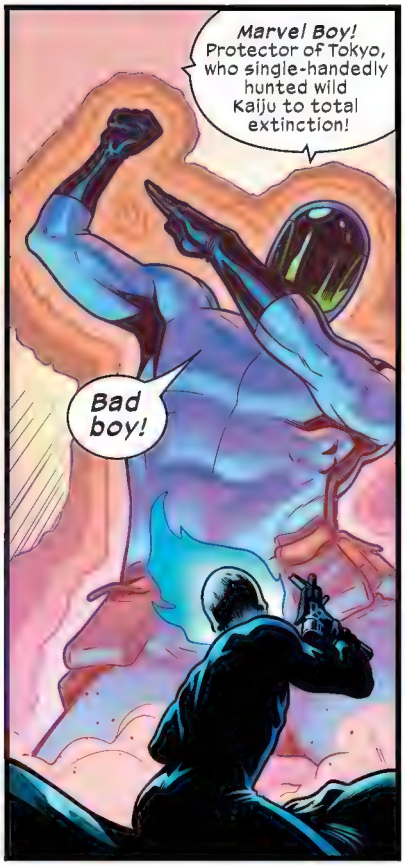

That blow to the head you just took must have knocked you for a loop. There's *one* of you and *five* of us.
A miracle *called...*

...the Defenders! Super heroes for the average joe!
"Emma, this is the Defenders series premiere! This feed is going out all across the world--edited in real time by our A.I.s to put the Defenders in the best possible light.
Count again, [redacted].
The Defenders! They'll do anything to protect your way of life!
"We're finally going to give the people what they want. Super-powered spectacle without the politics.

There's beautiful, devastating *Thora,* powered by the Norse gods and her pure Scandinavian bloodline!!!
You talk about power?!
"Our writers came up with a great rags-to-god storyline for her. Trailer park, opioid-addicted parents. I'm told it's very moving.

"Rural whites are going to eat her and Ballistic up. We've covered up her past affiliation with the Red Skull movement, of course. Focus groups indicated it would be distractingly divisive."
I will show you power!!!

I have killed bigger beasts than you, demon!
And then there's *Marvel Boy,* legendary monster hunter of *Hi no Kuni!*
ROXXON ALCHEMAX HAMMER MIDAS BEYOND

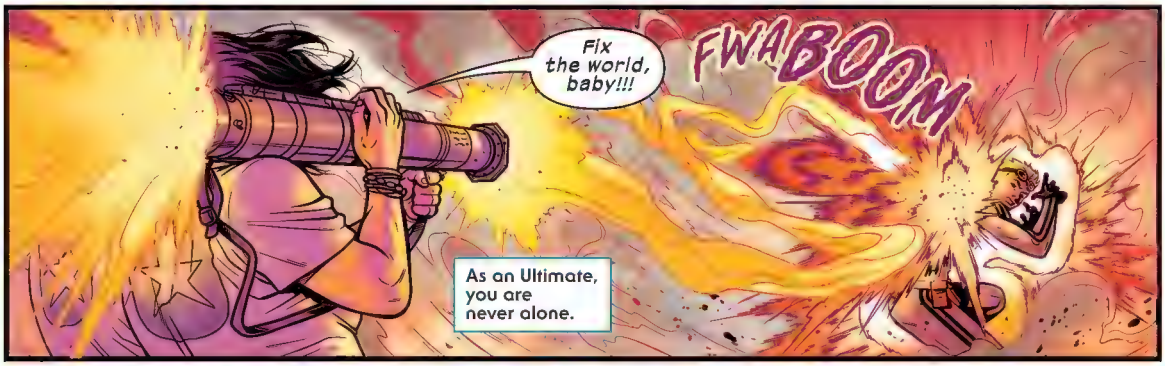

Marvel Boy! Protector of Tokyo, who single-handedly hunted wild Kaiju to total extinction!
Bad boy!

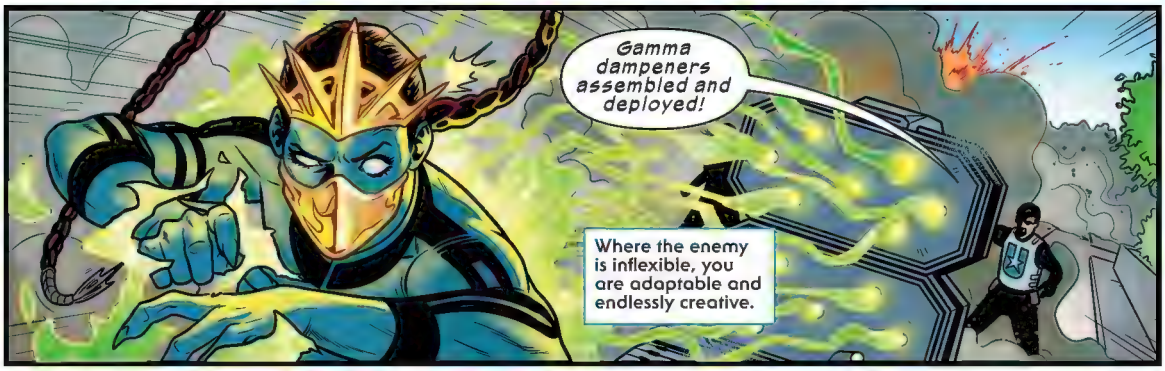
Aaooow!
"Is any of that true?"
"Of course not. But Hi no Kuni culture is big with the youths these days. He tested through the roof with something called 'weebs.'

There's fierce, noble *Proctor,* chivalric leader of Captain Britain's Black Knight Brigade! One of the greatest soldiers on the planet.
I can see into your true heart. To its *very center.*
"Who doesn't love a knight in shining armor?
I see the pain you're in. I see you wish for death. So I bring good news.
My sword *drinks* souls. It will cleave your soul from your body and you will *have* your wish.
"He forgot his line about *disarming* him! There is obviously still work to be done.
SLICE
How--how can you touch me...?
Wrestling with the living shadow is *Decay's Beautiful Daughter!*
Having achieved physical and spiritual perfection under the Incredible Hulk, she has brought a piece of Heaven to Earth!
The darkness cannot escape the light.
"She's going to be huge for the new-age wellness people and the Children of the Eternal Light's territory, which is massive. A very important piece of the pie.

"We've developed a full slate of live-action TV, summer blockbuster movies, animated half-hours, action figure lines, and more, featuring these characters, ready to roll out immediately.
Slow and soft. Like a bird. Know what happens when a bird gets in the way of a *rocket?*
"A small group of extraordinary individuals, with heroic back-stories and relatable flaws.
"People don't want to be *lectured*-- they want to be *entertained.* Scripted quips and one-liners. Catchphrases!
See-- see the pain you've caused--
My special reflective coating protects me against all *guilt, pity or shame!*
"They want clear, long-running storylines and interpersonal drama. Maybe a little light romance.
Rejoice! Your pain is finally over!
"People don't want change. They want the *illusion* of change. *Trust* me."

RA
TATATATATATATATATATA
Eh??
Stay back!
Though you may find yourself outnumbered or outgunned, as an Ultimate, you have advantages over the enemy too.


Fix the world, baby!!!
FWABOOM
As an Ultimate, you are never alone.


Gamma dampeners assembled and deployed!
Where the enemy is inflexible, you are adaptable and endlessly creative.

Raugghhh!!!
FFZAAACK
While the enemy is fighting for fear or money, you fight for something bigger than yourself.

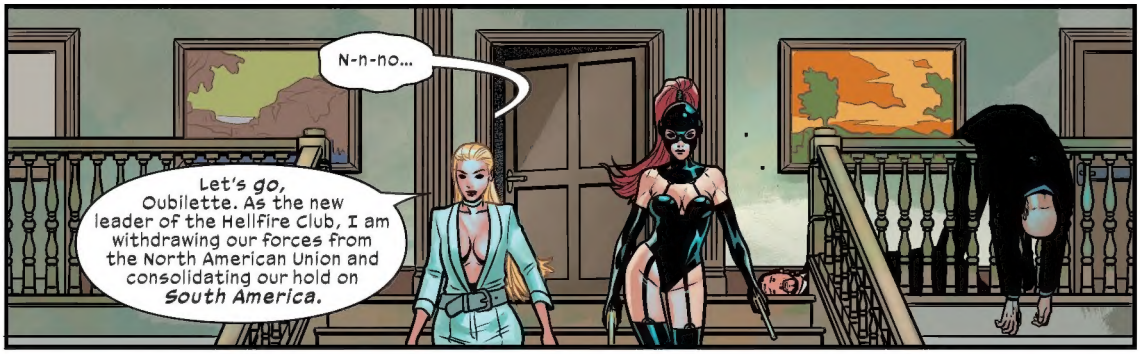
Monsters! All of you are monsters to Marvel Boy!
I kill monsters!
Where the enemy is unused to resistance, you have known nothing but.

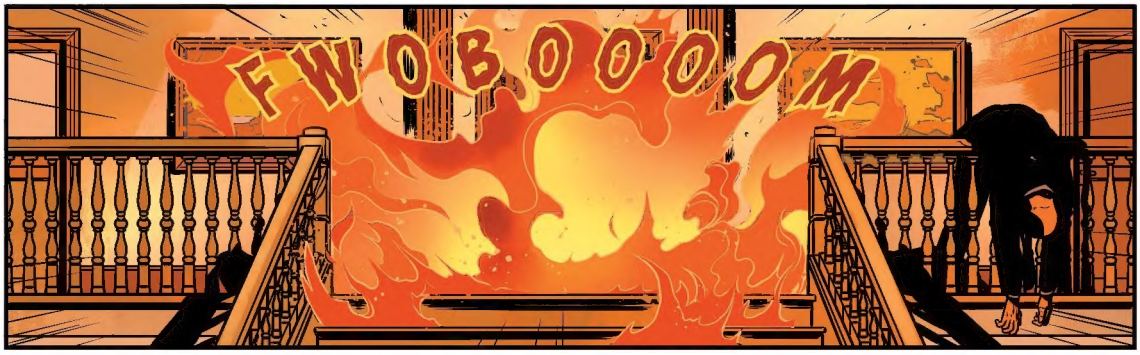
Nothing gets through my blast field, idiot!
Well, that's not exactly true.
Many of you will not survive.
I mean, you're talking and I can hear you. Which means *something* gets through.
ROKKOU
ALCHEMAX
MIDAS
BEYOND
But those who die will know what they died for.
Drink deep, my beloved! Slake your terrible th--
Their deaths will have meaning.

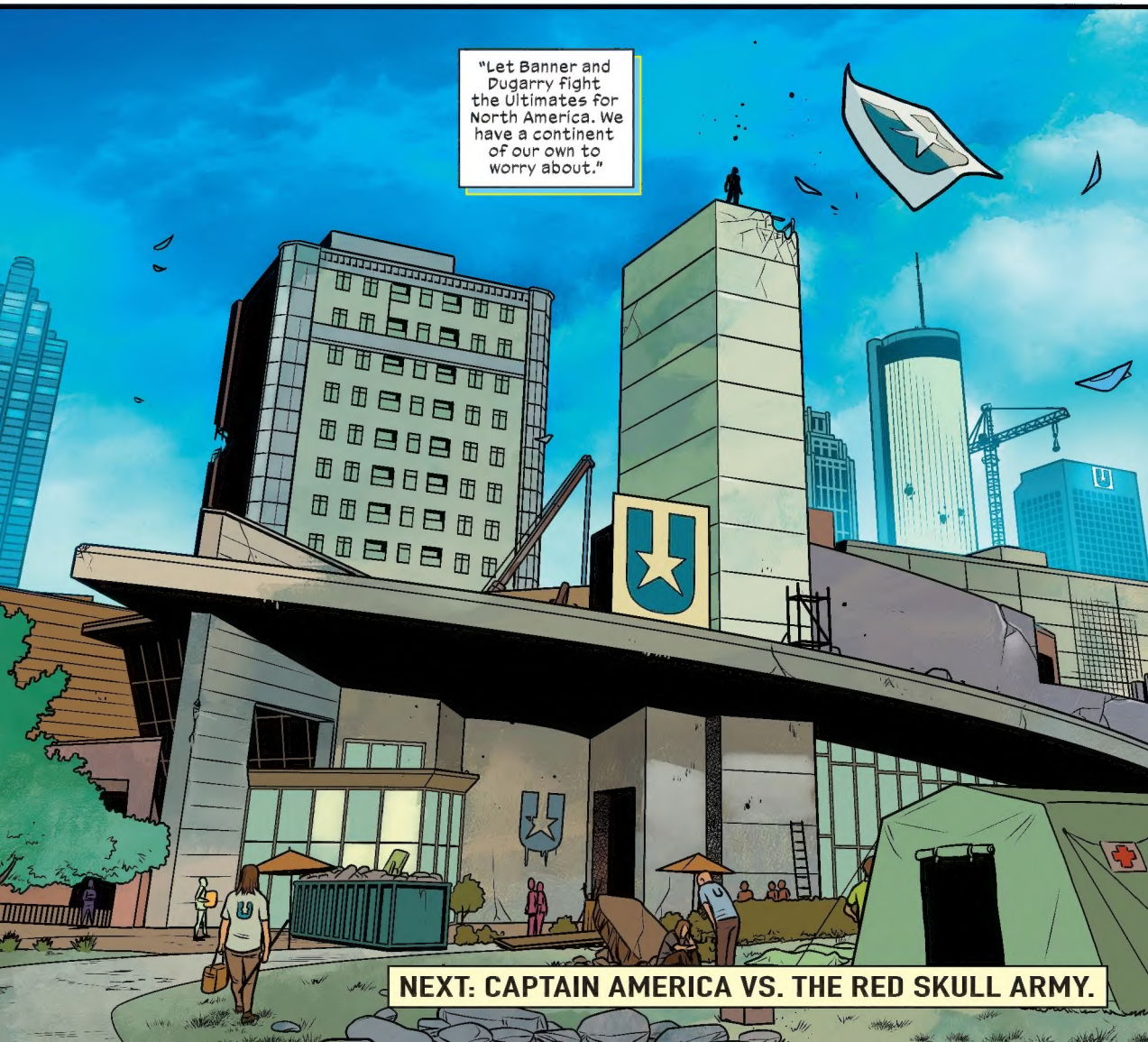
Thank you, my friends. I've got her covered from here.
You're so strong. I've never been strong, and for a long time, I was ashamed of it.
But you know what I've found?
Strength isn't everything. Not much use against a universe of darkness, for instance.
Come back! Fight me!
I figure there must not be a worthiness requirement on that thing, to let someone like you use it.
KRACKADOOOM!!

CHOMP
CHOMP
CLICK
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
"Your new pet project has lost. Badly."

No matter. A victory can still be salvaged from the corpses. We'll make the Ultimates look like butchers--and then bring in the Defenders' understudies.
ROXXON
ALCHEMAX
HAMMER
MIDAS
BEYOND
I think not, Emmanuel.
I--
what--?
Yet another costly failure in a string of costly failures. The Council contacted me personally after your betrayal allowed many of the Maker's most powerful assets to be lost.
This premiere was also your finale.
I am currently suppressing the part of your brain that controls your stolen mutant powers, your power of motion and your bowels.
Speaking personally, Emmanuel...I have always found you disgusting. The things you did to the children... under my care...
Your own son...It's unconscionable.
I'm going to leave you two alone now. To work things out yourselves.
Th-thank you, Ms. Frost.
Do what you think is right, Roberto.
'B-Berto...


N-n-no...
Let's go, Oubilette. As the new leader of the Hellfire Club, I am withdrawing our forces from the North American Union and consolidating our hold on South America.


FWOBOOOOM


"Let Banner and Dugarry fight the Ultimates for North America. We have a continent of our own to worry about."
NEXT: CAPTAIN AMERICA VS. THE RED SKULL ARMY.

WRITER: **DENIZ CAMP**
ARTIST: **PERE PÉREZ**

COLOR ARTIST: **FEDERICO BLEE**
LETTERER: **VC's TRAVIS LANHAM**
COVER ARTISTS: **DIKE RUAN & NEERAJ MENON**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS: **INHYUK LEE; DAVID MARQUEZ & EDGAR DELGADO; PERE PÉREZ & MORRY HOLLOWELL**

DESIGN: **JAY BOWEN**
PRODUCTION: **GABRIEL MATA**
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MICHELLE MARCHESE**
EDITOR: **WIL MOSS**
EDITOR IN CHIEF: **C.B. CEBULSKI**

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